



2009 SENATE BILL 624

March 17, 2010 – Introduced by Senators LEHMAN and SULLIVAN, cosponsored by Representatives FIELDS, SOLETSKI and CULLEN. Referred to Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 66.0627 (title), 66.0627 (1) (a) and 66.0627 (8); and *to create*
2 66.0627 (1) (d) of the statutes; **relating to:** expanding the authority of political
3 subdivisions to make residential energy efficiency improvement loans, and
4 authorizing political subdivisions to make water efficiency improvement loans
5 and impose special charges for the loans.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a municipality (a city, village, or town) is authorized to impose a special charge against real property for current services rendered by allocating all or part of the cost of the service to the property served. A “service” under current law includes snow and ice removal, weed elimination, sidewalks or curb and gutter repair, garbage and refuse disposal, recycling, storm water management, tree care, and other similar services that are not specified in the definition. Generally, special charges are not payable in installments. If a special charge is not paid within the time specified by the municipality, the special charge is delinquent and becomes a lien on the property against which it is imposed.

Also under current law, as created by 2009 Wisconsin Act 11, a political subdivision (a municipality or county) may make a loan to a resident of the political subdivision for making or installing an energy efficiency improvement or a renewable resource application to the resident’s residential property. Current law also authorizes the political subdivision to collect the loan repayment as a special charge. A special charge that is imposed for such a loan repayment may be collected

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in installments and may be included as a charge on the resident's property tax bill even if the special charge is not delinquent.

This bill expands the entities to which a political subdivision may make energy efficiency loans to include commercial and industrial premises located in the political subdivision, and also authorizes a political subdivision to make similar loans for water efficiency improvements. Loan repayments for water efficiency improvements may also be collected as a special charge, paid in installments, and be included on the loan recipient's property tax bill just as such loan repayments may be collected for energy efficiency improvements.

The bill also authorizes a political subdivision to enter into a loan repayment agreement with the owner or lessee of premises located in the political subdivision under which the owner or lessee obtains a loan from a private lender for energy or water efficiency improvements, or a renewable resources application, to the premises. Under the bill, the political subdivision could then act as a conduit by collecting the loan repayment as a special charge and forwarding the amount collected to the lender.

For further information see the *local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 66.0627 (title) of the statutes, as affected by 2009 Wisconsin Act 11,
2 is amended to read:

3 **66.0627 (title) Special charges for current services and energy and**
4 **water efficiency improvement loans.**

5 **SECTION 2.** 66.0627 (1) (a) of the statutes, as created by 2009 Wisconsin Act 11,
6 is amended to read:

7 66.0627 (1) (a) "Energy efficiency improvement" means an improvement to a
8 residential, commercial, or industrial premises that reduces the usage of energy, or
9 increases the efficiency of energy usage, at the premises.

10 **SECTION 3.** 66.0627 (1) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

